

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL DAY TO PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. We have much to celebrate as a country in respect to teen pregnancies and birth. Teen pregnancy, abortion and birth rates have all declined: the birth rate is down 31 percent from 1991–2002 and the teen pregnancy rate is down 28 percent from 1990–2000. While African American teens still have higher teen pregnancy rates than any other major racial/ethnic groups in the country, their rates are decreasing faster than the overall rates for teen pregnancy and birth in the United States. Between 1990 and 2000, the teen pregnancy rate among African American teens declined 31.5 percent.

There have been an exceptional number of organizations whose hard work and dedication through education and outreach services contributed to this decline. A few of those include our Community Health Center, the school health associations, the Ounce of Prevention Fund, and Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Still, there is no room for complacency. Nearly half of our Nation's high school students have had sexual intercourse; the average age of first intercourse for boys and girls is 15 and almost 25 percent report having sex with four or more partners by 12th grade. 35 percent of girls still get pregnant by age 20 in this Nation—nearly 850,000 teen pregnancies annually. In Chicago alone, more than 7,500 babies are born to teen moms every year, 88 percent of which are out-of wedlock. The numbers of teens contracting sexually transmitted diseases are just as startling. Each year one-quarter of the estimated 12 million new cases of STD, other than HIV, in the United States occur among teenagers. Adolescents have one of the fastest increasing rates of HIV infection; an average of two young people are infected with HIV every hour of every day.

Abstinence education should be taught but not without more education explaining the risks of being sexually active. With the high percentage of adolescence having sexual intercourse and according to the Illinois Department of Public Health only 35 percent of males and females nationally use a condom during every act of sexual intercourse, we can not pretend or even wish that our young people are waiting to have sex. Education works—we have proof of that with the decline in teen pregnancies and births. We need to ensure that our young people are receiving a comprehensive sex education program to effectively teach and encourage teens to delay sexual activity. The Alan Guttmacher institute found that between 1988 and 1995, three-quarters of the decline in teen pregnancy was due to improved contraceptive use among

sexually active teenagers with one quarter of the decrease due to increased abstinence.

Mr. Speaker, teen pregnancy is so closely linked to other critical social issues: child poverty, out of wedlock births, a well-trained and ready workforce, and a responsible fatherhood. Congress, communities, schools, parents, organizations and groups of faith should all join together in properly educating and demonstrating to our young people that adolescence is a time for education and growing up, not pregnancy and parenthood.

HONORING THE HISPANIC ORGANIZATION OF STUDENTS IN TECHNOLOGY/SOCIETY OF HISPANIC PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AT NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hispanic Organization of Students in Technology (HOST), the student chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). They were honored at the HOST/SHPE Gala Banquet on Thursday, April 29, 2004, at Ibero Restaurant in Newark, New Jersey. This year's gala banquet featured New Jersey State Assemblyman Wilfredo Caraballo as the keynote speaker, as well as NJIT President Robert Ailtenkirsch and Provost Joel Bloom.

The Hispanic Organization of Students in Technology/Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers represents a group of extremely talented and dedicated students who have shown amazing promise and success. Established in 1991, the objective of the HOST/SHPE was to create an organization to serve as a role model to the Hispanic community. Under the leadership of Student President Cynthia Camacho, HOST/SHPE has continued to excel as one of the premiere HOST organizations in the United States. With the second highest membership of a Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers student chapter nationwide, HOST/SHPE was the recipient of New Jersey Institute of Technology's Newark College of Engineering 2004 Outstanding Student Organization.

Cynthia Camacho has also been acknowledged for her outstanding leadership. At the SHPE Eastern Technical Career Conference in Washington, DC, she received the Pedro Ortiz Student Leadership Award. This award is presented to the student member who has displayed leadership qualities in activities within SHPE and their community. Ms. Camacho has served as a role model for her peers and youth, through her outstanding academic excellence and commitment to her community.

Carlomango Ontaneda, the SHPE chapter advisor at NJIT, has been an integral force in

helping students achieve their goals at NJIT and beyond. For his dedication and tireless effort, Mr. Ontaneda was awarded the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers National Technical Career Conference Educator of the Year Award.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the achievements of Cynthia Camacho, Mr. Ontaneda, and the talented students of the Hispanic Organization of Students in Technology/Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers at New Jersey Institute of Technology.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT BILLY JOE ORTON

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, to die for one's country, while tragic, is the ultimate honor. To die for the freedom of others may not carry with it an adequate expression to illustrate the debt it generates. Today, I rise to honor Staff Sergeant Billy Joe Orton who was killed during his tour of duty in Taji, Iraq. He was 41 years old.

Staff Sergeant Orton dedicated his life to serving our Nation bravely. He served in Panama from November 1993 to November 1996; Egypt from October 2001 to August 2002, and was ordered to active duty for "Iraqi Freedom" on Oct. 12, 2003, with the 39th Infantry Brigade in Arkansas.

His dedication to his country was surpassed only by his love for his family, friends and community. The lives he touched were evident as more than 150 people recently gathered outside the Orton home where Staff Sergeant Orton lived with his wife, Margarita, and their three children. The crowd gathered carrying lit candles and a heavy heart as the community came together to share the grief with the Orton family.

Arkansans have always been proud of their tight-knit communities, but to see such an outpouring of support is proof of the magnetic personality Orton possessed.

Staff Sergeant Billy Orton fought honorably to establish freedom and democracy, and we are all struck by the enormity of this tragedy. We will remember Staff Sergeant Orton for his honor, his mettle and his bravery. On behalf of the Congress, I extend the utmost respect for a fine American, a loving father, husband and son, and the perfect model of a patriot.

RECOGNIZING BRITTANY SANDERS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ms. Brittany Sanders of Kansas

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.